

Product/Service Description Document

Experimental NWR on the WEB WFO Mt.Holly

Mission Connection

Product Description:

The National Weather Service (NWS) automatically generates .mp3 files of all broadcast text sent to the NWS NOAA Weather Radio (NWR). These MP3 files can be downloaded and played on a home computer to listen to various broadcast texts. The format of the .mp3 files is an auto-generated computer voice of forecast text sent out by NWS forecasters using IFPS.

Product Type:

Experimental

Purpose:

The purpose for providing NWR broadcast text in the .mp3 format for web users is that it can be especially useful for locations where normal NWR broadcasts can not be received due to distance from the transmitter or, terrain effects that would either block or decrease the quality of the reception. Also allowing users to choose to listen to a broadcast via a menu allows them to get their information more quickly than having to listen through a typical broadcast cycle that may last tens of minutes especially during severe weather mode.

The current version (Phase 1) does not include short fused warning products (TOR, SVR, FFW, and SMW) which are planned to also be included in Phase 2.

Audience:

The audience for this experimental product is the general public, both local national, and international. Anyone with a computer and internet access can download and listen to these NWR broadcasts. This service also can be beneficial to visually impaired users who can listen to the broadcasts rather than relying on a screen reader to interpret the text.

Presentation format:

The designated web page (<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/nwr/>) will provide links to .mp3 files of NWS weather radio broadcasts that can be used to download and listen to NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts over the internet in real time.

Feedback method:

The NWS is always seeking to improve availability and quality of NWS products and services based on user feedback. Comments regarding this service should be e-mailed to daniel.hagarty@noaa.gov. The feedback period for this experimental service will extend from May 1, 2008 to March 2, 2009.

Technical questions may be address via e-mail to: daniel.hagarty@noaa.gov

Or regular mail to:

National Weather Service Forecast Office Philadelphia/Mount Holly, NJ
732 Woodlane Road
Attn: Daniel Hagarty
Mt. Holly, NJ 08060
Telephone: (609) 261-6602 ext 235

Technical Description

Format and Science Basis :

The format will be strictly a .mp3 file of broadcast text generated by the automated voice on CRS. This file will be generated and sent via CRS up to the ER web farm whenever a forecaster generates a new forecast via IFPS. To ensure these .mp3 files are always up to date, the links that users can listen to will only be provided for products that are always updated. These would be the Zone Forecast, the Hourly Roundup, and the Climate Summary products. Short term warning products such as the TOR, SVR, FFW, and SMW would not initially be included because these are not always generated on a daily basis, however, they would be added in Phase 2.

Availability:

The .mp3 files would be generated and uploaded to the web server for users whenever a forecaster generates a new forecast via IFPS. They can be downloaded and listened to 24 hours a day, and 7 days a week, and should always be up to date provided there are no problems with the CRS to ERH web server connections.